



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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May 23, 2007

EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Christopher Aaron

**ORTONVILLE MAN INDICTED FOR USING FALSE
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS TO AVOID REPORTING
CASINO WINNINGS OF OVER \$3 MILLION**

Christopher Aaron, age 47, of Ortonville, Michigan, was arraigned today in federal court in Detroit, Michigan on an Indictment charging him with twenty-two counts of obstructing the administration of the Internal Revenue laws, signing false IRS forms under penalty of perjury, and causing casinos to file false reports, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

The 22-count indictment charges that between January 2000 and December 2003, Aaron provided false Social Security numbers to various casinos, so that gambling winnings reported to the Internal Revenue Service would not be reported under his true Social Security number. This in turn caused the casinos to file false forms with the Internal Revenue Service, which reflected amounts won by the defendant but which contained a false Social Security number.

The defendant also signed IRS forms, under penalty of perjury, in which he provided

false Social Security numbers to the IRS in connection with his gambling winnings. The defendant then filed false federal income tax returns, indicating far less gambling income that he actually received.

The total gross winnings reported under the false Social Security numbers was over \$3 million. Due to the defendant's actions, it was impossible for the Internal Revenue Service to accurately determine his net income (or loss) due to gambling.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "To be fair, our government's tax system requires honest and voluntary reporting of all citizens. Obviously, reporting gambling winnings under false Social Security numbers is counter to this obligation, and will result in charges such as those that were filed today."

The defendant faces a maximum term of imprisonment of three years on Counts One through Eighteen, and a maximum term of up to five years on Counts Nineteen through Twenty-Two of the Indictment. The actual sentence imposed if convicted would depend on a number of factors, including the defendant's criminal record (if any), and advisory Sentencing Guidelines.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Wayne F. Pratt.